

Ready to Read

An Early Literacy Newsletter

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Volume 5, Issue 12
December 2012

Renée Edwards' Favorite New Books

Renée Edwards is the Early Literacy Outreach Manager for Fairfax County Public Library. She manages the library's *Ready to Read* program. This program presents early literacy storytimes directly to preschool children in child care centers or Head Start classrooms, targeting children who cannot or may not visit the library.

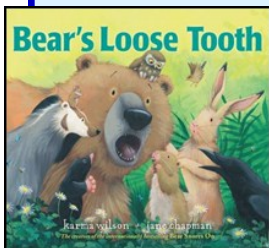
One of Renée's tasks is compiling a list of new picture books that are sent via email to caregivers and parents each month. These book lists are also available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. In this newsletter, Renée shares some of her favorite new books that she highlighted in 2012.



Renée enthusiastically reads one of her favorite Mo Willems books, *Are You Ready to Play Outside?*, to the Head Start children at Bucknell Elementary School.

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka

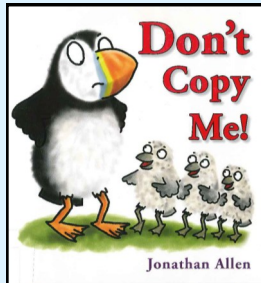
A wordless picture book showing the fun a dog has with her ball and what happens when it is accidentally damaged by another dog. Caldecott Medal Book. *Appropriate for ages 2-5*



Bear's Loose Tooth by Karma Wilson

When Bear discovers he has a loose tooth, his friends try to help make it fall out. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Don't Copy Me! by Jonathan Allen



Little Puffin wants to enjoy a walk in the nice fresh air, but Small Gull, Tiny Gull and Baby Gull follow him everywhere and copy everything he does. Little Puffin tries to stop this annoying game. *Appropriate for ages 3-5*

Green by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

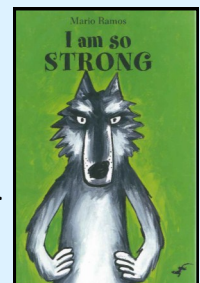
Illustrations and simple, rhyming text explore the many shades of the color green. *Appropriate for ages birth-5*

Hogwash by Karma Wilson

When his stubborn pigs refuse a sudsy cleaning, a determined farmer learns that mud baths can be just as fun. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

I Am So Strong by Mario Ramos

The wolf walks through the woods bullying everyone he meets, until he meets someone bigger and stronger. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*



Renée's Reading Tip



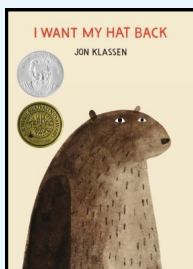
Always practice a story before you read it aloud. This allows you to think about how you will read it, how you will involve the children and how you will define any unfamiliar words or concepts.

("Favorite New Books" continued on page 2)

("Favorite New Books" continued from page 1)

I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen

A bear searches for his missing hat and almost gives up until he remembers something important. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*



I'm a Shark by Bob Shea

A boastful shark is not afraid of anything, which impresses his underwater friends until they ask about spiders. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Lots of Spots by Lois Ehlert

A collection of poems about animal camouflage and adornment. *Recommended for ages 2-5*

Renee's Reading Tip



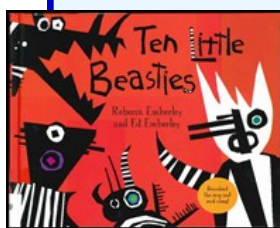
Encourage discussion about a story or its illustrations. Children should not be passive listeners. Get them involved by asking questions about a story and its pictures or allowing them to help you say phrases that repeat throughout.

RRRalph by Lois Ehlert

The narrator describes how Ralph the dog can talk, appropriately saying words such as "roof," "rough," "bark" and "wolf." *Appropriate for ages 2-5*

Squish Rabbit by Katherine Battersby

A lonely little rabbit wants to make a friend. *Appropriate for ages 2-5*



Ten Little Beasties by Rebecca Emberley

One by one, ten little monsters appear and then disappear from the page. Can be sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians."

Appropriate for ages birth-5

Renee's Reading Tip



Read with expression. Expressive reading grabs the attention of young children and models how good reading sounds.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star by Jerry Pinkney

A chipmunk looks at the sky and marvels at a twinkling star. Beautiful illustrations accompany the full-length version of this traditional song. *Appropriate for ages 2-5.*

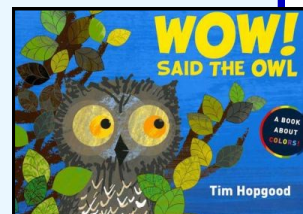
Where's My T-R-U-C-K? by Karen Beaumont

Tommy looks everywhere in the house for his lost toy truck. *Appropriate for ages 4-5*

Wow! Said the Owl by Tim Hopgood

A curious little owl decides to stay awake to find out how the things he sees at night look during the daytime.

Recommended for ages birth-5



Z is for Moose by Kelly Bingham

Moose is terribly eager to play his part in the alphabet book his friend Zebra is putting together. When his letter passes, Moose behaves rather badly until Zebra finds a spot for him. *Appropriate for ages 2-5*

Renee's Reading Tip



Introduce books before reading them aloud. This activates children's background knowledge, introduces unfamiliar words or concepts and gets them excited about the story they are going to hear.